



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FACT SHEET

FY07 Budget Week

SANDERS ANNOUNCES NO BUDGET CUTS TO PARKS, LIBRARIES, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

FY07 Budget will be the First Time in 3 Years that Services haven't taken Big Hits to Balance City Budget

As part of his FY07 budget, **Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that he would not support further cuts to the City's parks and libraries departments and will maintain funding for those departments at their FY06 levels.** The Mayor announced that he will also **maintain present funding levels for the City's cultural and economic development programs.** All four programs have been cut significantly over the past three years.

The Mayor will release his entire FY07 budget on Friday. On Monday, the Mayor announced his Financial Recovery Plan and yesterday, he announced that he would add \$38 million to the budgets of the City's police and fire departments.

While the City's public safety, water and wastewater departments provide necessities, Mayor Sanders feels strongly that parks, libraries and arts & culture programs provide important quality of life amenities that add immeasurably to making San Diego a great city in which to live and work.

Here are the details of his budget proposal on these programs:

- **Parks. Park and Rec Center and pool hours will not be further cut.** The Mayor will propose an FY07 department budget of \$108.1 million, up from \$105.3 in FY06.

As a result of past budget cuts, most Park and Rec Center hours have been cut to 40 hours per week and pool hours are now staggered. Since the FY97 City budget, the Parks Department has lost 188 employees and been cut by \$13.4 million in funding.

- **Libraries. Library Hours will remain at their FY06 levels.** The Mayor will propose an FY07 department budget of \$38.7 million, up from \$36.6 million in FY06.

As a result of past budget cuts, library hours at the system's 35 libraries have been reduced. The Mayor will ask the City Council to waive the Library Ordinance. This earmark would require the City to contribute 6% of the City's General Fund (approximately \$19 million) to the department. As a budgetary principle, the Mayor does not support earmarking and does not believe that the City has the resources to contribute such an amount.

- **Arts & Culture Programs. The City's Arts & Culture Commission will be able to award \$6.9 million to worthy program in FY07, the same amount it did in FY07.** These programs are funded by Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). Over the past three years, budget allocations to cultural programs were cut by 30%.

In FY06, 119 diverse, non-profit organizations, ranging from the San Diego Opera to San Diego Asian Film Festival, received funding from the City of San Diego.

- **Economic Development.** Programs ranging from the San Diego Film Commission to the San Diego Convention Center Corporation and the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau will continue to receive \$17 million from the City in FY07, the same amount they did in FY06. Over the past three years, budget allocations to many economic development programs were cut by 30%.

The Mayor sees budgetary allocations to these programs as investments because they all market the City and help generate economic impact and new tax dollars for the destination.

Sanders on Service Budgets

"For the past several years, City services, and our economic development investment opportunities, have been cut significantly. This downward spiral has affected virtually every San Diegan. My FY07 budget will be about stabilization -- for our finances, our services and our management. While I wish that I could do more to restore vital City services, I think it's a major step forward that we have stopped the bleeding."

Mayor Jerry Sanders